LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for inhibiting fuels from flowing out of fuel tanks, the apparatus comprising:

a cover having a communication passage communicating with a canister, disposed outside a fuel tank having a top opening, and fixed to a periphery of the top opening of the fuel tank in an airtight manner;

a cylinder-shaped breather pipe disposed inside the fuel tank, extending downward, and having a top-end opening whose periphery is welded to the cover in an airtight manner;

an upper case having a communication opening communicating with the communication passage of the cover, and welded to the breather pipe in an airtight manner at an outer periphery of the communication opening in the vicinity of the top-end opening of the breather pipe;

a substantially box-shaped lower case disposed in the breather pipe, having a top end held to the upper case, and enabling a liquid fuel to pass through the inside and outside thereof; and

a floating valve accommodated in a housing formed by the upper case and the lower case, floating on the liquid fuel, and moving up and down in accordance with the up-and-down movements of a level of the liquid fuel, whereby opening and closing the communication opening of the upper case,

wherein the top-end opening of the breather pipe has a flange, the top end of the lower case is held between the upper case and the flange of the breather pipe, and claws are mounted on the top end of the lower case to be engaged with the periphery of the upper case.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the cover is welded to the fuel tank.

4. (Original) The apparatus set forth in claim 3, wherein the fuel tank is formed of resin, and the cover has a surface, at least the surface welded to the fuel tank and formed of resin of the same material quality as that of the fuel tank.

5. (Original) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the breather pipe is formed of resin, and the cover has a surface, at least the surface welded to the breather pipe and formed of resin of the same material quality as that of the breather pipe.

6. (Original) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the cover has an inner periphery formed of resin of good moldability,

and an outer periphery formed of resin weldable to the breather pipe.

7. (Original) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the breather pipe has an inside diameter at a bottom-end opening thereof at least, the inside diameter being smaller than that of the top-end opening.

8. (Currently amended) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the breather pipe further has a differential valve member at the top-end opening, the differential valve member introducing a gas within the fuel tank into the breather pipe when a pressure within the fuel tank is abnormally high.

9. (New) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the floating valve comprises a lower float and an upper float, a plurality of claws being formed on an opening end of the upper float, and a plurality of engagement grooves being formed on an outer peripheral surface of the upper float, the engagement grooves engaging with the claws.

10. (New) The apparatus set forth in claim 1, wherein the floating valve comprises a lower float and an upper float, a sealing protrusion being formed at the top of the lower float, and a through valve hole being formed in the middle of the upper float so as to face the sealing protrusion, wherein a movement of the upper float and lower float approaching each other causes the sealing protrusion of the lower float to seal the valve hole in the upper float.